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Solution-Processed hybrid Sb₂S₃ planar heterojunction solar cell

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— Thin-film solar cells based on inorganic absorbers permit a high efficiency and stability. Among or those absorber candidates, recently Sb₂S₃ has attracted extensive attention because of its suitable band gap (1.5eV ~ 1.7 eV) , strong optical absorption, low-cost and earth-abundant constituents. Currently high-efficiency Sb₂S₃ solar cells have absorber layer deposited on nanostructured TiO₂ electrodes in combination with organic hole transport material (HTM) on top. However it's challenging to fill the nanostructured TiO₂ layer with Sb₂S₃ and subsequently by HTM, this leads to uncovered surface permits charge recombination. And the existing of Sb₂S₃/TiO₂/HTM triple interface will enhance the recombination due to the surface trap state. Therefore, a planar junction cell would not only have simpler structure with less steps to fabricate but also ideally also have a higher open circuit voltage because of less interface carrier recombination. By far there is limited research focusing on planar Sb₂S₃ solar cell, so the feasibility is still unclear. Here, we developed a low-toxic solution method to fabricate Sb₂S₃ thin film solar cell, then we studied the morphology of the Sb₂S₃ layer and its impact to the device performance. The best device with a structure of FTO/TiO₂/Sb₂S₃/P3HT/Ag has PCE over 5% which is similar or higher than yet the best nanostructure devices with the same HTM. Furthermore, based on solution engineering and surface modification, we improved the Sb₂S₃ film quality and achieved a record PCE. .

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